

# Whatsapp for teacher training and support: Senegal project report

Linda Ruas, Chris Sowton, Rose Aylett, Jen Taylor, Fatou Kine Ndiaye Gueye

Contact: [gisig@iatefl.org](mailto:gisig@iatefl.org)



CARE  
GLOBAL  
TEACH  
LOCAL!

## Global Issues SIG



# Our background and experience:



*Kagugu Primary School, Kigali, Rwanda. (cellanr under a Creative Commons Licence <https://bit.ly/2vU7cHd>)*

- **Julietta Schoenmann** – training teachers in Kano state, N.Nigeria
- **Linda Ruas** – supporting untrained teachers in refugee camps in Greece
- **Chris Sowton** – supporting teachers in refugee camps in Kenya/Lebanon
- **Rose Aylett** – supporting teachers remotely in Egypt and via Zoom in Palestine (Hands Up Project)
- **Jen Tayler** – teacher training projects in Russia and Morocco



Grade 2 12:19

- This could also be done effectively by getting the students to act out all of the different types of weather and saying the word at the same time 14:46 ✓✓
- The pictures are nice but it's time consuming to make these materia on a regular basis - let the kids act and mime! 14:47 ✓✓



Non-class activity with my students in grade one 🍷🌹

VERMONT AREA PRIVATE SCHOOLS

2021-2022

SECOND TERM

Grade	Subject	Teacher	Classroom	Room	Room	Room	Room	Room
1st	Math	Mr. [Name]	Room 101	Room 102	Room 103	Room 104	Room 105	Room 106

Grade 1 .pdf

4 pages • PDF • 786 kB 19:07

VERMONT AREA PRIVATE SCHOOLS

2021-2022

General plan 2

Grade	Subject	Teacher	Classroom	Room	Room	Room	Room	Room
1st	Math	Mr. [Name]	Room 101	Room 102	Room 103	Room 104	Room 105	Room 106

General plan 2 - معدلة....

20 pages • PDF • 1 MB 19:07

Leen |

<http://www.unlistens.org/> How do you think we can make use of this idea ? Do you think that our kids at school can make a change writing letters ?

I think it's a great idea to make kids write what they want. This expresses their feelings with things they need but not available((things in education maybe, health, creative ideas...etc)), And thus they develop themselves to build beautiful future for them 05:26







# Remote support for untrained volunteers teaching English in refugee camps in Greece





# Research and other similar remote teaching projects:

- **WhatsApp for teaching very large classes in Chennai, India – Dr Rajasekaran Venkatraman** – presentation at IATEFL conference, Brighton, April 2018
- **British Council Plan Ceibal** in Uruguay  
<https://www.britishcouncil.uy/en/programmes/education/ceibal-en-ingles>
- **Hands Up Project** – remote teaching in Palestine via Zoom  
<https://handsupproject.org/>
- **Skype in the Classroom:** guest speakers / classroom collaborations  
<https://education.microsoft.com/skype-in-the-classroom/overview>

# Beginnings, aims and plans:

- **TESOL France links with AfricaTESOL set up, Oct 16**
- **Link with Fatou established by Jules at TESOL France, Oct 17, and reinforced by Chris in Dakar, Nov 17.**
- **Fatou sent us list of teachers and telephone numbers**
- **Skype meeting to assign partners and discuss approach, Jan 18**
- **Aims: to be discovered with individual partnerships – variable**
- **Start: personalised introductory videos and questions**
- **Motivations: this panel discussion and competition for learners**



## Topics discussed:

- how to teach large classes
- suitable materials
- global issues in class

## Resources shared:

- Short videos
- Photos of our classrooms
- Links eg. to excellent CAMELTA resources
- Discussion, questions and answers or suggestions





# Challenges:

- Strike
- Illnesses
- Overwork
- Time pressure
- Phones breaking
- Lack of internet
- Approach? (not enough rapport created first)

*Katsina City, Nigeria. Many people buy small solar units to generate the power. © Akintunde Akinleye/Reuters*

<https://bit.ly/2r6HjPL>



# What we've learnt / next steps:

Build up personal relationship before professional  
Establish 'rules', etiquette and time to respond

?

After all the interest in this project at the AfricaTESOL conference, we are expanding this Whatsapp support project to many other countries / areas in Africa. If anyone would like to get involved, please email: [lindaruas@hotmail.com](mailto:lindaruas@hotmail.com)



*Photo: Apu Gomes/AFP/Getty*

<https://bit.ly/2COtwVD>